



N A R U C
National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners

January 19, 2017

Mr. Thomas Pyle
Presidential Transition Headquarters
1800 F Street, NW, Room G117
Washington, DC 20270-0117

Re: NARUC Follow-up on Energy Policy

Dear Mr. Pyle,

As the President of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC), I would like to offer my sincere congratulations on winning a tough election. While there is a lot of work to be done, NARUC is here to help. My colleagues and I are anxious to get to work with the Trump Administration to tackle the nation's pressing utility issues.

Founded in 1889, NARUC is a non-profit organization dedicated to representing the state commissions that regulate our nation's utilities. NARUC's mission is to serve the public interest by improving the quality and effectiveness of public utility regulation. With over 200 state commissioners and an enormous number of commission staff operating in diverse circumstances throughout the United States, NARUC offers unparalleled access to an extensive pool of experts on a variety of utility matters.

NARUC Committees focus on issues including electricity, natural gas, water, telecommunications, transportation, critical infrastructure, consumer affairs, and energy resources and the environment. These Committees adopt Resolutions that, when approved by the Board of Directors, become the NARUC's policy positions which are used to ensure that policymakers, lawmakers, industry, and the general public understand the issues that face State regulators.¹ NARUC also has a Research Lab that conducts studies on cutting-edge utility issues and an International team that engages in outreach to countries seeking guidance on utility issues.

In addition, NARUC members meet three times a year to exchange ideas, educate one another on the latest developments in the industry, and share regulatory best practices among states. I would encourage you to participate in these triannual meetings as a way to get to know NARUC members and keep apprised of state utility issues. The next NARUC meeting will be held in Washington, D.C. on February 12-15, 2017. NARUC would be pleased to provide an opportunity for Administration representatives to speak at the February meeting and address NARUC's members on the incoming President's energy agenda. I would also like to organize a

¹ NARUC's Resolutions can be found at <https://www.naruc.org/policy-and-advocacy/resolutions/>.

meeting between Administration representatives and NARUC's Executive Committee while we are in town for the February meeting.

Looking towards the year ahead, NARUC has several key priorities, a number of which align well with the objectives of your Administration. In particular, infrastructure replacement is a huge concern across all utility sectors. The state of our nation's utility infrastructure is aging and in dire need of repair, which presents not only a reliability issue, but a safety concern as well.

Along those lines, NARUC looks forward to a renewed relationship with the U.S. Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA), which plays an important role, along with the states, in ensuring that the nation's pipeline infrastructure remains safe. NARUC has been very vocal in presenting our views about PHMSA to the outgoing Administration and Congress. In addition, there is a crucial need to boost state funding to ensure adequate pipeline safety inspections.

Beyond infrastructure replacement, there are several other utility issues that NARUC would like to highlight. First, NARUC encourages your Administration to override the agreement between former Senator Reid (D-NV) and the Obama Administration that has kept the Yucca Mountain nuclear waste depository licensing proceeding in limbo. Given that a federal court found the deal to stop the licensing proceeding was contrary to law, there is no reason to continue the delay. Yucca Mountain remains a key priority for NARUC.

Second, NARUC would like your help remedying the recent federal agency decisions that have encroached on state authority and blurred the distinction between federal and state jurisdiction. In particular, NARUC is opposed to recent federal regulations that undermine or bypasses state (1) generation resource allocation choices; (2) initiatives to integrate distributed energy resources (also known as "net metering" policies); and (3) electric transmission siting authority. In our view, federal overreach has had a chilling effect on the ability of states to effectively regulate intrastate commerce.

Third, we are deeply concerned that the 1978 Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act (PURPA) needs to be modernized to reflect the nation's 21st century energy landscape. PURPA was enacted at a time when the United States faced tremendous uncertainty in the energy sector. Today, the United States has the ability to become energy independent through robust domestic energy resources. So now more than ever, we need to proactively develop a new national energy strategy that includes PURPA modernization.

Should the Energy Transition Team wish to discuss any of these issues, NARUC would be happy to meet with you. Attached to this letter is an appendix that contains the names and contact information for key NARUC Commissioners from every region of the nation, as well as NARUC's Washington-based advocacy staff. Please also feel free to reach out to any of these contacts, or to call me personally should you have any questions or concerns.

Again, congratulations to each of you for being chosen for the critical task of transitioning the nation's energy policy. I look forward to working with you in 2017 and beyond.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert F. Powelson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, horizontal flourish at the end.

Robert F. Powelson
NARUC President

Attachment

List of NARUC's Executive Committee and Board of Directors
Washington Staff Contact Information
NARUC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President

The Honorable Robert Powelson - Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (717) 783-6190

First Vice President

The Honorable John Betkoski, III - Connecticut Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (860) 827-1553

Second Vice President

The Honorable Ellen Nowak - Wisconsin Public Service Commission (608) 266-5481

Treasurer

The Honorable David Ziegner - Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (317) 232-2701

The Honorable Travis Kavulla - Montana Public Service Commission
406) 444-6199

NARUC'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS (which includes the Executive Committee)

The Honorable Lorraine H. Akiba - Hawaii Public Utilities Commission (808) 586-2020

The Honorable Bob Anthony - Oklahoma Corporation Commission (405) 522-2261

The Honorable Ronald A. Brise - Florida Public Service Commission (800) 342-6036

The Honorable Margaret E. Curran - Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission (401) 941-4100

The Honorable David W. Danner, Chair, NARUC Committee on International Relations
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (360) 664-1208

The Honorable Edward S. Finley, Jr., Chair, NARUC Committee on Electricity
North Carolina Utilities Commission (919) 733-6067

The Honorable Nikki M. Hall, Chair, NARUC Subcommittee on Supplier and Workforce Diversity
South Carolina Public Service Commission (803) 896-5100

The Honorable Asim Z. Haque - Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (614) 466-3101

The Honorable G. O'Neal Hamilton - South Carolina Public Service Commission (803) 896-5100

The Honorable Mary-Anna Holden, Chair, NARUC Committee on Water
New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (609) 633-9833

The Honorable John E. Howard, Chair, NARUC Subcommittee on Education and Research
South Carolina Public Service Commission (803) 896-5100

The Honorable W. Kevin Hughes - Maryland Public Service Commission (410) 767-8073

The Honorable Judith W. Jagdmann - Virginia State Corporation Commission (804) 371-9608

The Honorable Betty Ann Kane - Public Service Commission of the District of Columbia (202) 821-9129

The Honorable Nancy Lange, Chair, NARUC Committee on Energy Resources and the Environment
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (651) 201-2240

The Honorable Richard S. Mroz, Chair, NARUC Committee on Critical Infrastructure
New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (609) 777-3310

The Honorable Chris Nelson, Chair, NARUC Committee on Telecommunications
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (605) 773-3201

The Honorable Carla Peterman - California Public Utilities Commission (415) 703-1407

The Honorable Brandon Presley - Mississippi Public Service Commission (662) 963-1471

The Honorable Robert R. Scott - New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission (603) 271-2290

The Honorable Brien J. Sheahan - Illinois Commerce Commission (312) 814-2850

The Honorable Bob Stump - Arizona Corporation Commission (602) 542-3935

The Honorable Mark Vannoy - Maine Public Utilities Commission (207) 287-3831

The Honorable Nick Wagner - Iowa Utilities Board (515) 725-7888

The Honorable Jolette A. Westbrook - Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities (617) 305-3738

The Honorable Stan Wise, Chair, NARUC Committee on Gas
Georgia Public Service Commission (404) 657-2341

The Honorable Audrey Zibelman - New York State Public Service Commission (518) 474-2523

NARUC's Washington Staff

(Anyone listed below can provide additional contact information for any of the Commissioners listed above.)

NARUC OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Greg R. White - NARUC's Executive Director (202) 898-2208 gwhite@naruc.org
Deborah L. Scott - Executive Assistant to the Executive Director (202) 898-2211 dscott@naruc.org

Mr. White joined the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners in December 2015. As the Executive Director, he is responsible for the overall management of the Association. He directs the programs and implements the policies of the Association and promotes the Association's interests in Washington. Greg supports the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee and directs the Senior Management Team.

NARUC POLICY DEPARTMENT

James Bradford Ramsay - NARUC's General Counsel (202) 898-2207 jramsay@naruc.org
Jody M. Farnsworth - Legal and Legislative Assistant (202) 898-1892 jfarnsworth@naruc.org

Mr. Ramsay is responsible for all Association related legal issues (Energy, Telecommunications, Water, Transportation, Consumer Affairs, Critical Infrastructure) and is in charge of all Policy department advocacy initiatives. He has been with NARUC since 1990. He has testified for NARUC's in the US House and Senate.

Jennifer Murphy – Assistant General Counsel (202) 898-1350 jmurphy@naruc.org

Ms. Murphy handles the Association's energy-related legal and policy work before federal agencies (e.g., FERC, DOE, EPA, NIST) and the federal courts. Jennifer supports the Electricity Committee, the Gas Committee, the Energy Resources and the Environment Committee, the Consumer Affairs (Energy) Committee, and the Subcommittee on Nuclear Issues.

Christopher Mele - Legislative Director, Energy (202) 898-2206 cmele@naruc.org

Mr. Mele directs the Association's policy advocacy, Congressional relations regarding energy regulatory policy. Chris supports the Consumer Affairs (Energy), Electricity, Energy Resources and the Environment and Gas Committees as well as the Washington Action Program.

Brian M. O'Hara - Legislative Director, Telecommunications (202) 898-2205 bohara@naruc.org

Mr. O'Hara directs the Association's policy advocacy, Congressional relations and media relations activities regarding telecommunications and water regulatory policy. Brian supports the Telecommunications, Consumer Affairs and Water Committees and the Washington Action Committee